

**John Vardill to George Washington, September 20, 1773, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM MR. JOHN VARDILL.**

KING'S COLLEGE, Sept. 20 1773

SR

I have taken the Liberty of addressing a Letter to you, on a Subject extremely agreeable to me, & which, I am sensible, must be particularly so to you. The Conduct of your Son, during his Residence at this Seminary, has been such, as that it would be injustice to deny *him* the Intrite of Approbation he deserves, & *you* Sr. the Satisfaction which a generous Parent must receive from the Reputation of one he loves. At a Period of Life in which the Passions are most violent he has discover'd a remarkable purity of Morals, &, when Gaiety invited him to pleasure, has with such constancy devoted himself to his Studies, as to give us the surest ground to expect that he will hereafter attain to that excellence which his natural powers render him capable of. When I inform you, that his Affability & Courtesy have endear'd him to mine, as well as to the Affection of all who are concern'd in his Education, you may suspect me of partiality: But this Friendship itself would prompt me to the strictest Sincerity in this Description, least I might injure one whom I esteem, by imprudently lulling Parental Caution into a dangerous Security. If the Intrusion of this Letter wants an Apology, I can only confess, that I could not deny myself the satisfaction of giving this testimony to Merit, of presenting my humble respects to you Sr: & your amiable Lady,

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of congratulating Her on the hopes that her Precepts & Example of Piety will be practis'd & imitated by her Son, & of professing myself, with all sincerity Sr

Your friend & humbl servt: JOHN VARDILL